

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,953,626 of *Hause et al.* ("*Hause*").

Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hause* and U.S. Patent No. 5,900,668 of *Wollesen* ("*Wollesen*").

Claims 10-16 are withdrawn.

New claims 17-26 are added.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Hause* because *Hause* does not disclose forming an overcoat of an airdome structure by filling a set of air spaces in the airdome structure with a gas while depositing the overcoat as claimed in amended claim 1.

Given that claims 2-9 depend from amended claim 1, it is submitted that claims 2-9 are not anticipated by *Hause*.

It is also submitted that claims 6-7 are not obvious in view of *Hause* and *Wollesen*. Claims 6-7 depend from amended claim 1 and *Hause* and *Wollesen* do not teach or suggest forming an overcoat of an airdome structure by filling a set of air spaces in the airdome structure with a gas while depositing the overcoat as claimed in amended claim 1.

It is further submitted that new claims 17-26 are not anticipated or obvious in view of *Hause* and *Wollesen* because *Hause* and *Wollesen* do not teach or suggest forming a set of valleys in an airdome structure and depositing an overcoat on the airdome structure such that the valleys impede the overcoat from entering a set of air spaces in the airdome structure as claimed in new

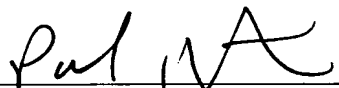
claims 17-26. Instead, *Hause* discloses forming a capping dielectric 144 on a flat planarized layer 140 (*Hause*, Fig. 14 and col. 9, line 32 and lines 58-60) and *Wollesen* discloses a dielectric coating that replaces air gaps (*Wollesen*, Abstract, last two lines and col. 5, lines 50-64).

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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